DOGG'S HAMLET, CAHOOT'S MACBETH

By SETH GORDON

I MAGINE TWO STUDENTS sitting in a Chinese restaurant. The first, a Course VI major, begins talking about 6.001 and 6.005. The second, a Harvard student, begins talking about 104 and 108. The two might believe they are carrying on a real conversation, as long as neither knows that 6.001 is Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs and that 104 is a Beef With Broccoli.

With the help of his artificial language, "Dogg," Tom Stoppard turns confusions like this into a gymshoes cave - I mean, "Dogg," Tom Stoppard is the author of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead and the week's Dramaskop production, The Real Thing, among others. West, Yedidia, and their cast (by through the script with spirit, vigor, and a low budget) bring Stoppard's language, uses the same words as English, but this is like saying Swasthi uses the same alphabet. On to quote the program, "Rock cod esquire tongue."... frankly can't stick kids. Mens sana in corpore sano.

The Hamlet within the first act lasts fifteen minutes, followed by a one-minute encore. John Wolfe G, as Baker, observes special praise for seeming as clumsy with English as he is fluent in Dogg.

The second act, Cahoot's Macbeth, is based on Stoppard's visit to Prague in 1977. There, he met the playwright Pavel Kolinec and the actor Pavel Landovsky both banned by the Czech authorities. The following year, Kolinec and his colleagues opened a "Living-Room Theatre" - five actors and one suitcase of props - that performed a 75-minute version of Macbeth.

Cahoot's Macbeth is set in a Prague home where a production is taking place, although Stoppard's Macbeth takes less than an hour. The play is interrupted by the police, right after Macbeth's line: "Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!"

This act brings out Stoppard's more serious concerns over the political use of language. The swaggering Inspector, played with great conviction by Grant Dorfman, peppers his lines with sinister words, or as a commentary on language, understanding, culture, and repression. The one, acting with skill and conviction, brings out all these levels.

Scabs, slobs, yobs, yids, spicks, wops... Sad facts, brats pule puke crap-pot stink, spit; grow up dunces crooks; rank socks dank snotrags, conkers, ticks; crib books, cock snooks, block bogs, jack off, catch pop pick spots, scabs, padlocks, seek kicks, kinks, slack; nick swag, swig coke, bank kickbacks;... frankly can't stick kids. Mens sana in corpore sano.